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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



Picture Story No. 92 For Release February 22, 1953



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One of first home demonstration agent on one of her mountain trips. She carries all equipment needs for her work. She had ridden over 100 miles when this picture was taken.



S-11946

Mrs. Helen Sage, home demonstration agent, and car loaded with material for next demonstration meeting, Iowa.

## AGRICULTURE . . then and now

Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture commemorates its Golden Anniversary of Farm Demonstration Work, February 26, 1903 - February 26, 1953.

IN 1903, Dr. Seaman A. Knapp demonstrated in Texas a new idea of organized farmer self-learning which in succeeding years became the nucleus of what we now call cooperative extension work, and which has since been adapted also to many other countries of the world ....ALTHOUGH many influences were at work in other areas which also contributed mightily to the development of agricultural extension work, this initial demonstration and Dr. Knapp's missionary zeal were largely responsible for focusing attention upon the farmers' need for the type of self-help teaching that would enable him to improve his own situation....TO-DAY county agents are working in all rural counties and home demonstration agents in about five-sixths of them. They demonstrate better farming and home-economics practices to adults and youth and do other types of informal teaching....FOUR and a half million farm families and more than two million non-farm families take part in planning and benefitting from extension work each year....FACTS about the first farm demonstration follow.

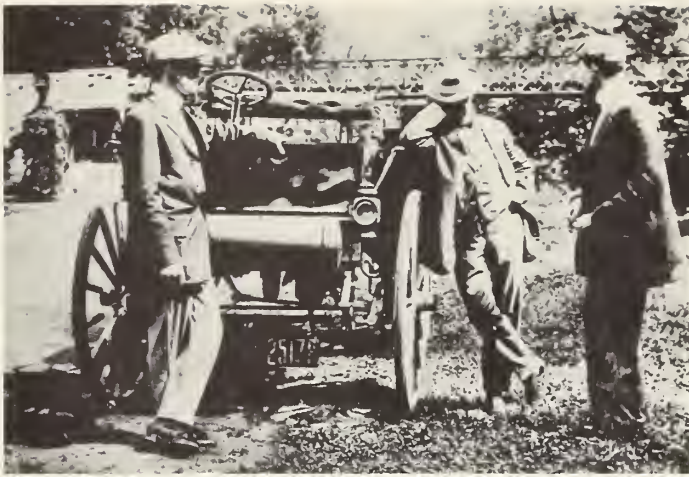
Fifty years ago, near Terrell, Texas, the first farmer-conducted farm demonstration plan was employed under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in an organized way as an educational tool for improving farming, a new approach to informal adult education in farming.

On this occasion a farmer, Walter C. Porter, agreed to carry to completion on his own farm a method of farming based on recommendations of science, to keep records, and to let his neighbors watch the progress of the demonstration.

The problem agricultural scientists had been trying for a long time to solve was: How to bring farmers to adopt scientifically proven practices. Methods previously tried, one author states, only resulted in skepticism, derision, and an immovable resistance on the part of farm people for whom they were designed.

The Terrell venture solved the problem. The result of this community centered, farmer-conducted farm demonstration startled everyone connected with it, says Joseph Cannon Bailey, biographer of Dr. Knapp. \*\*\* "By the time the crop season of 1903 was over there were insistent and well-nigh universal demands in that section of Texas for the organization of demonstration farms like that at Terrell."





One of the first county agents in Extension Service, 1910. S-18001



County Agent and farmer discussing pasture improvements by recommendation of new varieties of grasses, Nevada. S-5214



Poor pastures and badly eroded land, can only produce poor livestock. Miss. R2 1237



Hereford steers on improved alfalfa-brake pasture.

ILL. 1900



How a farm to market road looked fifty years ago, Ohio. OH.-60560